

THE RANGER SPIRIT

Vol.1 NO.1

MAY 1977

10¢



Mark Gauvin invades the wilderness.

THE SENIOR PLAY A GREAT SUCCESS

By Mike Heamy

It is unlikely that our assembly hall or the auditorium at Tenney has ever witnessed a senior play so professionally done as this year's, 'The Marriage Bit.'

The hard work and endless hours of frustration that were put into this play came through very clear in the final production.

This play takes place at the Brindsley Class of 1977. The story concentrates on the responsibilities of marriage. The leading man Jeff, who is played by Mark Gauvin, plans to propose to his girlfriend Kristin, Dru Craven. Before he has a chance to pop the question, Mark's roommate Fuzzy, who is Jim Abdulla, tries to talk him out of proposing by explaining to him the responsibilities and problems that come with love. Fuzzy also persuades Kristin's roommate Imogene, as played by Laurel Dollof, into telling Kristin not to accept the proposal.

Throughout the play, Kristin and Jeff consider married life through a series of flashbacks and trips into the future.

A large part of the play consists of these humorous predicaments of what Jeff and Kristin's married life may be like.

Back at the prom, in a final effort, Fuzzy succeeds in talking Jeff out of proposing to Kristin. In the meantime, Fuzzy has grown fond of Imogene, and in a hilariously ironic scene, Fuzzy unbelievably asks Imogene for her hand in

Nation's Outstanding Teens Turned Off To Turning On

If today's outstanding teens are on a trip, it's by train, plane or car because they're really turned off to turning on.

In the latest nationwide survey of 23,900 top teens listed in 'Who's Who Among American High School Students,' 88 percent of those polled classify alcohol and drugs as dangerous.

These kids appear to be practicing what they preach since more than half have never had a drink. This contrasts sharply with the 1972 survey, when 85 percent of the students had tried some kind of alcoholic beverage.

Whether or not they think drinking, smoking and drugs will impair their ability to perform is open to conjecture. But there's one thing for sure—these teens are down on highs. Apparently they're not about to jeopardize their outstanding stance.

According to the survey, 80 percent have never smoked cigarettes and 11 percent have quit. That means that almost everyone must be taking the Surgeon General's warnings seriously.

Drug use, too, is down significantly among this year's survey group. Some 89 percent have never used any drugs and 11 percent have only tried marijuana. This is a considerable difference from 1972, when almost 30 percent of the teens were using drugs, including the hard stuff.

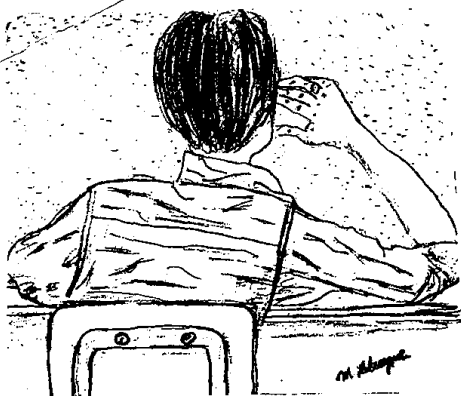
Legalizing marijuana doesn't turn on the majority of these kids, either. Sixty-four percent are against giving grass the legal go-ahead, a 10 percent jump since 1973.

At the same time, better than half (54 percent) agree that marijuana has become an accepted part of teenlifestyle. This doesn't mean, however, that the teens want to be part of and party to the stuff. In fact, 86 percent maintain they will not go to parties where other students drink and use drugs.

Although a vast majority of these teens are quick to declare that their attitudes about drugs and drinking are strictly their own, parental influence may have quietly crept into the picture.

For example, 47 percent of those students asked have parents who don't drink (57 percent of the parents do). Some 59 percent of the parent either disapprove or don't know their children drink. And, 86 percent of the parents do not use drugs.

If we read the figures correctly, today's high achievers, slated to be tomorrow's leaders, will lend a sober and reassuring presence to the



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Notice:

Students are welcome to submit letters and comments to the newspaper. Please drop them in the mailbox in the office. The best letters will be considered for publishing.

EDITORIAL OUR PAPER

Most of you are reading this newspaper at various times and places. You might be reading it during the commercials that interrupt your favorite program, or maybe there is a gang of you huddled around the one Rockefeller in the group who sacrificed a dime to buy "The Ranger Spirit." And shame on those of you who are reading this during class.

The majority of you have probably heard the occasional announcements of "Ranger Spirit" staff meetings. And most of you have probably been wondering who the looney is that got the brainchild to start the school newspaper again after it fell flat on its face last year.

Nice to meet you!

But all kidding aside, gang, I hope this issue of "The Ranger Spirit" will calm any fears and erase any doubts you might have had about the success of the newspaper. This newspaper was not started so that it could be tagged a failure, nor was it started so that its editor could be remembered in Methuen High School history as one of the many courageous students who tried to turn a useless thing such as the newspaper into a success. Rather, this newspaper was started for you-the students of Methuen High School.

In preparation for this first issue, my staff and I have exchanged ideas and reviewed past issues of former Methuen High newspapers as well as issues of other school newspapers in an attempt to find the kind of news students are interested in and the best way to present it to them.

The format of this paper, however is totally different. Maybe it's because the editor is of a different sex and all. No doubt, the editorial is one of the last things you have to read; editorials tend to be long and boring. If this is true, you've seen the features we are offering-unusual, well-written and, hopefully, entertaining articles. We plan on presenting more like them. Features such as "Club News," Steve Caredeo's rock column and my "highly intriguing" editorials will appear in every issue. From time to time, we'll present a student interest story. And we will present special sections on things such as Student Congress elections, the Senior Class Play and Graduation Day in certain editions of the paper.

But, most of all, we want to hear from you. If you have an article on some aspect of school life or a unique experience, drop it in our mailbox. It's located in the office. You can also leave it with Mrs. Longshore, any staff member or myself. The aim of this newspaper is to be student oriented. The only way to accomplish this is to hear from you, the students.

So let's hear it!

What's that? You want to know where I'm writing this editorial? In French class, of course!

INTERVIEW MR. WILLIAM GOSSELIN

By Bill Barry

I interviewed Mr. William Gosselin, who is Director of Health Education, Physical Education and the Athletic Program in Methuen. Mr. Gosselin has been the director for 7 years. In those 7 years, Methuen has gone from 7 varsity sports to 19 varsity sports and 64 other teams between grades 7 and 12. The biggest growth has been in girls sports. The Methuen girls sports program is one of the finest in the state. Mr. Gosselin feels the reason for this growth is because of the interest shown by Methuen girls. To wrap up his comments on girls sports, he hopes to add a girls swimming and hockey teams. The reason for the delay in ice hockey is because only one other school in the state has girls hockey, but he says the future looks hopeful. For girls interested in playing football, Mr. Gosselin does not recommend it because of the injury risk involved.

The Boston Globe rated all the sports systems in the State and in Div. 2, Methuen is eleventh out of 76. The globe rates the systems by a win-loss record and the amount of participation by each school. Mr. Gosselin feels, 'the fine records turned out by Track, Girls Basketball, and Cross Country,' made the difference.

At the present time, Mr. Gosselin does not foresee any change in Men's sports in Methuen and is pleased with the programs being offered. He does not see any change in coaching except for the addition of Mr. Klimas as head football coach.

For anyone interested in just how much Methuen spent in '76, it was \$86,000. To wrap up this interview, Mr. Gosselin said he hopes the Methuen athletic program will continue to be one of the finest in the State and he has set his goal for "NUMERO UNO"

WINTER SPORTS WRAP-UP

By Lucille Cartelli

Another winter sports season has ended and once again Methuen High School has shown the Merrimac Valley Conference its superior ability.

First, and with the greatest congratulations, I am sure that all the students of Methuen High are proud and honored to have a men's track team as talented as the one of this past season. With total team spirit and excellent coaching, the men's track team captured the MVC championship and

progressed to the state finals where they showed their tremendous ability in all events. All through the season the team has been making and breaking league records with excellent performances from Kevin Tarr, Frank Plantamura and all the other team members. Following in their footsteps, the women's track team has also captured the MVC championship and is well deserving of praise from their team and classmates.

The women's gymnastic team also showed their superior ability when the team placed first in the MVC. With an almost perfect record of 9-1, the team has qualified for the state championship. Likewise, the men's gymnastic team had an excellent season. Dave Foucher remained undefeated in the highbars and along with all the other team members lead many superior performances.

As in previous seasons, the women's basketball team has triumphed once more in MVC standings. Kathy Szostak, Celeste Lippe and Gail Ganem played many excellent games and I am sure that a future in athletics is in store for them. Unfortunately, the men's team did not have such an impressive record. They played hard and deserve as much credit as all the other teams.

In its 3rd year of playing in the MVC, Methuen High's hockey team has racked up an impressive record. Coach Parker and all the members of the team deserve much praise.

Let us not forget the loyalty of the cheerleaders. The girls were a constant support to the teams and deserve much praise.

This past winter season has been an excellent triumph for the teams as well as the school. Both congratulations and thanks should be offered to all the team members.

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CLUB NOTES

CHORUS

By Linda Lafrenier

Chorus, 1977-78, has been divided into three groups to satisfy each student. The three groups are High School Chorale, Concert Choir and Madrigal Choir. Each course is unweighted. This is a change from previous years. Chorus has always been one group performing all types of music. Hopefully, the change will attract new interest in music.

The High School Chorale will perform many types of music, such as pop, folk, and classical. The student interested in this course must attend each concert and after-school rehearsal. This class meets once daily.

The Concert Choir will be a special group of singers who will sing and study advanced music. This course also meets once daily. Any student interested in the course must contact Mrs. Small in PA-7 for an audition.

The Madrigal Choir will be a group of students who will perform music that originated in Italy in the 14th century. This course meets once a week after school.

Mrs. Small is looking forward to a large group of interested students signing up for these courses. Music is fun and a good way to enjoy school.

PEP CLUB

By Jane Heleher; Jackie Finnegan

The Pep Club is an organization whose aim is to foster and improve spirit within the high school.

In order to accomplish this goal, the Pep Club tries to support school athletic events and social activities which occur during the school year.

The Pep Club supports school activities by making posters, sponsoring car washes, and selling baked goods. On appropriate occasions, such as Valentines Day and St. Patricks Day, the Pep Club sells carnations and roses.

This year the Pep Club is planning to spend a few days in New York City. They hope to do some sightseeing and expand their educational horizons.

The Pep Club is always willing to support any activity at Methuen High that would improve school spirit.

YEARBOOK

By Lucie Simms

The yearbook staff has brought back an old tradition to Methuen High, dances. With the exception of the Cadet Corps' Coronation Dance, this school hasn't had a dance in three years. For everyone these dances are the best way to make money and have a good time.

The staff has been busy ever since it was organized last year. Even though we got off to a shaky start, when no one could find Sean Sullivan when it was time to leave for the publishing conference, the yearbook is progressing. Pictures are being taken and fund-raising activities are getting off the ground. The staff, through Stevens Studios, gave Methuen High students a chance to see the Emmet Kelly Jr. Circus. Even though not as many students took advantage of a day out of school as we expected, the turnout was still fairly good. It's being presented at Merrimack College in May, and over 100 students will be there.

The yearbook itself is coming along very well. All of the senior pictures have been taken and all the pictures of our "favorite" faculty. The editor is Laurel Dolloff and when she's not getting mad at photographers, she's doing a great job organizing the rest of the staff into doing the jobs they have been assigned. Fund raising committees are in full swing; the faculty and senior section committees have been working hard. Dru Craven has been outstanding in getting work done. Although the bank account is growing, there are many more layouts to be done and deadlines to be met.

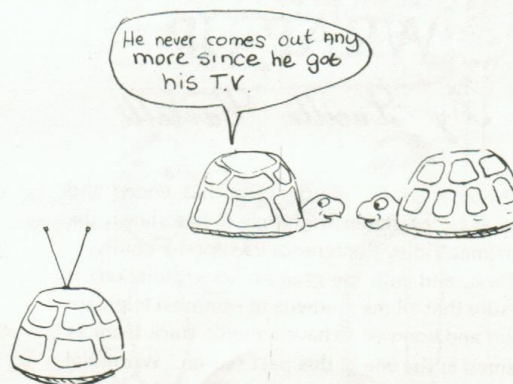
SPANISH CLUB

By Jackie Finnegan; Jane Heleher

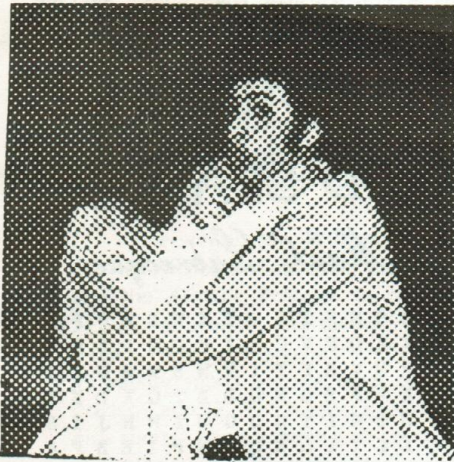
The Spanish Club is a group which was formed to interest people in Spanish Culture. During the February meeting, the Spanish Club made Churros. The recipe for them is:

1 part water
1 part flour
salt
heat to a boil
put in a Churrera (cookie maker)
deep fry
dip in powdered sugar

In Spain, the people eat churros for breakfast. Some people dip them in hot chocolate to add to the delicious flavor.



M. Gould
77



Laurel Dolloff overwhelms Jim Abdulla.

But how will Fuzzy and Imogene explain this to Jeff and Kristin? This leads to the final scene whendespise all the anger, frustration, thinking , and pain, Jeff does propose to Kristin.

At this point the audience was on their feet applauding a job well done.

It is impossible for all the members of the cast, the directors, and the engineers to be credited, but they can all be proud of putting together their talents into creating a play with a professional touch.

To all the members of the Class of 77 who worked in creating this event, you will not soon be forgotten for the laughter that was created in our assembly hall on March 17, 18, and 19th. And its stage will always hold the memories.

BENEATH

By Tom Riopelle

"I remember it all now," I said to my grandson, who was sitting in my favorite overstuffed chair. "My best friend and I helplessly watched him die."

"Tell me about it Grandpa, please?"

"Okay, I'll try..."

Our family lived in a little town, named North Winthrop, about 53 miles north of Hartford. A little "stream" wound almost directly in the center of our little hicktown. Somehow the "stream" never got a name.

During the winter, the banks of the stream were fun. A bunch of kids would build forts on both banks. Our "wars" would last about two hours with neither side winning. The skating was the bestanywhere. Our hockey games were also fun, even though the other team always won. Skating at night was the most fun, for we all new every inch of the ice from bank to bank.

Dave was my best friend. We went everywhere together; everyone in town called us twins. He came from an "underpriveledged" family so to speak. His father was out of work and never sober. On the other hand his mother was always at work and never home. In a way he and the rest of his family had to fend for themselves. He was a quiet and somewhat smart student in school. My parents liked him too. In fact, I don't think that anyone really didn't like him.

continued on page 6

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'LICENSED BY THE REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES'

Beneath (cont.)

The night of the accident, Dave ate at my house with an invitation from my mother. We left the house after we both helped with the dishes.

"Is that it?" asked my quizzy grandson.

"No," I replied, "it's just starting."

I remember the night very clearly. The moon was full and the temperature reached 40. The ice was as clear as glass. The murky bottom was not easily defined. Sparse vegetation hardly ever reached the surface except near the bank. I started remembering what my grandmother had said, "Stay off the ice, I've seen many people fall through. It may look thick but the river is deceiving. Don't trust it." Her words kept echoing in my mind.

We sat on the log to put on our skates and for some strange reason I looked up; I sensed something there. There wasn't anything there and yet I felt the tension in the air. A feeling was looming everywhere.

Well, we finally got our skates on and started skating. The ice was like glass and I could barely see the bottom in the bright moonlight.

The eerie feeling was getting closer and gave me chills. I looked at Dave and with a mighty crash, he disappeared from sight. He had fallen through. Beginning to panic, I rushed over, being careful not to get too close to the hole.

He had fallen through and yet he hadn't come up. I looked down and under me was Dave desperately trying to break the ice that held him under. I stood there frozen, not knowing what to do. Dave's struggle was to no avail. His movements got slower, his eyes widened and he began to sink. Bubbles began to rise under the ice. I started to scream and thought of what was happening.

His struggle and glaring eyes will always be remembered somewhere in the back of my mind...

KENNY WILMAN STUDENT OF THE MONTH

By Mark Labrecque

On February 17, the Students of the Month were announced. Kenny Wilman, who is a sophomore, was one of the two.

When asked how he felt about being chosen, he told me he didn't know, but that he was a little surprised.

Kenny is actively involved with the school. He has participated in school sports such as the soccer and hockey teams and he has a seat on the student council.

Kenny has been taking the college course. He told me that he wanted to become a radio or television announcer. I'm sure someone wishes

him great success for the future.

Kenny is just one example of the many fine students here at Methuen High School, who are actively involved and show great school spirit.

METHUEN HIGH WORD SEARCH

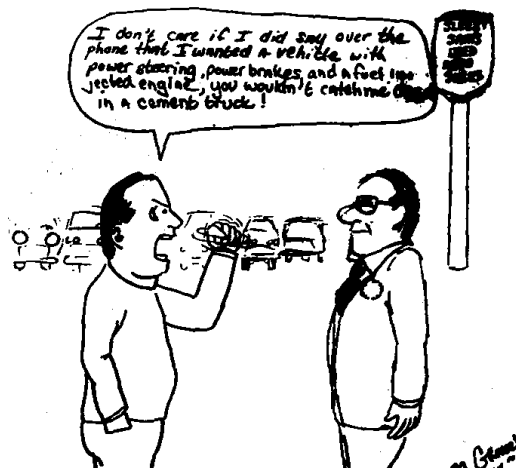
By Mark Labrecque

A B X E O C O N S T A N T I N E A U F P
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K Z C U U P W V B F I I V N S W W U L X
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CLUES FOR THE HIDDEN WORDS:

- 1 . PRINCIPAL
- 2 . VICE PRINCIPAL
- 3 . NORTH HOUSEMASTER
- 4 . SOUTH HOUSEMASTER
- 5 . ENGLISH COORDINATOR
- 6 . LANGUAGE COORDINATOR
- 7 . SCIENCE COORDINATOR
- 8 . ART COORDINATOR
- 9 . ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
- 10 . BAND DIRECTOR
- 11 . DRAMA TEACHER
- 12 . M.C. COORDINATOR
- 13 . I.A. HEAD
- 14 . HOME ECONOMICS HEAD

Many thanks to Mr. Sieg and the Methuen High School computers for their help in making this word search.





BREAK A LEG

By Colleen Riley

Have you taken a look around Methuen High lately? Since Christmas vacation, it has been changed into the recovery room at the hospital. Everywhere you look there are crutches, broken arms and legs, casts and wheelchairs. Isn't anyone all in one piece anymore?

You're probably wondering what all this is about. Well, it seems that once we get snow, we also get accidents. The snow has hit the area hard this year and so have the skiers when they miss a jump, fall and break a leg. This year the skiers have been given two chances. If they didn't kill themselves during Christmas vacation, they got another chance when Mother Nature "kindly" bombarded us with more snow and we got a whole wheel out of school for the "pleasures" of skiing.

Skiing isn't the only thing that has contributed to our list of casualties. Other accidents have also supported the drive to make our school a hospital. Some people have found the strangest ways to break their arms, maybe they just like being in a cast and will do anything to get one. For instance, how about tripping up the stairs and breaking your arm. Try explaining that one to the X-Ray department. Or, if tripping up the stairs doesn't work, try tripping over hurdles. What some people won't do for attention!

Some people seem to have trouble talking to those of us who have "fallen" into these unfortunate circumstances. It may be traditional to wish a performer good luck by saying "break a leg" but under the circumstances I don't think that's really the right choice of words. When people say "break a leg" to wish me luck in the senior class play, I show them my cast, which is up to my knee and thank them for their "kind" wishes; I'll be in a cast for three months. While some people enjoy all the attention they get while their in a cast, I prefer standing on my own two feet.

NANCY MARTIN STUDENT OF THE MONTH

By Mark Labrecque

On February 17th, the Students of the Month were announced. Nancy Martin, who is a senior, was one of them.

When asked she felt about being chosen, she said that she was surprised and honored, and added that she really didn't expect it.

As for her school activities, she is a member of the varsity tennis team, the yearbook staff, the Honor Society, and the Junior Boosters.

For the past three years, she has taken business and accounting courses. She told me that she has been accepted at the University of Lowell and would like to go on and become a C.P.A.. I'm sure she will be successful.

Everyone can see why Nancy was chosen. It's her strong involvement in school activities, her school spirit and her academic standings.

The SAC

The Student Service Center in North Andover is a federally funded project within the Department of Education, organized, staffed, and run by students from schools in Massachusetts. It was started July, 1971 as a means to involve youth in the Commonwealth in the educational process.

The center provides students, teachers, administrators, and parents with information they can use to improve education for all. Students are beginning to take a greater role in changing and improving their schools and they find they need to be informed on a wide variety of educational matter.

The Northeast Student Service Center answers the request of anyone with a question on educational matters, by referring them to their files, or by contacting, either by phone or in person, specialists in the area of the request. The Center also does special projects on a wide range of issues and topics which concern students.

NOTICE:

Due to delays in production, the newspaper is approximately one month overdue. Some articles may appear outdated, but we believe they still hold the same amount of importance. We hope our delay has proven beneficial by giving you an enjoyable newspaper. Thank you for being patient.

-The Editor

SAC (cont.)

Many of the staff members are representatives to the Student Advisory Council. The Council, which is made up of two students elected from every high school across the state, was established by law in 1971. From regional councils 4 members are chosen to serve on the State Student Advisory Council, which in turn elects a chairman, who becomes a full voting member of the State Board of Education.

Presently the Northeast Center is working on 622 workshops for students and administrators, and is planning new workshops on Students Rights. The work at the Student Service Center is geared to improving communications and interrelations between adults and students.

The philosophy behind the Center is that students can help in giving insight into the many problems in high schools today, and that students can be helpful in finding solutions to these problems.

The staff of the Northeast Student Service Center presently are James Kennedy (Coordinator), of Haverhill High School; Blaine Anderson, of Pentucket Regional and William Cunningham, from Wilmington High. The Center is located in The Northeast Regional Education Center on Route 125 in North Andover (across from Western Electric). You can contact the Center by writing or by calling 682-0171.

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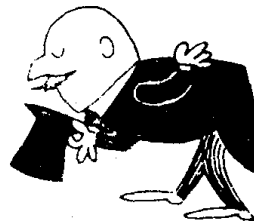








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